

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, October 15, 2012, 4:30pm, at the Riverside Skating Center. Present at said meeting were Richard Shockley, Karen Springer, Aimee Jacobsen, John MacDonald, Patrick Flannelly and Attorney, Andy Gutwein. Joe Payne, Lee Booth, Brenda Lorenz, Dan Dunten and Cheryl Kolb represented the department. Also present was City Council President, Ann Hunt. Absent from the meeting were Council members Gerald Thomas, Gerry Keen and staff members Pennie Ainsworth and Chris Foley.

Richard convened the Board at 4:38pm.

The first item of the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the September 17, 2012 meeting. Karen motioned to approve the minutes. Aimee seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Superintendent – Joe reported on the following:

- Noted the Council Report was included in the mailing
- The Purdue Construction Engineering Management students are constructing ten new wooden picnic tables to replace old tables in Happy Hollow Park as part of their homecoming project. The project was not finished at homecoming, but the group will finish the project this week.
- Noted work continues with completing the ravine footpath design, which is for construction of a boardwalk that leads down through the ravine from Salisbury and Grant down to the paved trail at the bottom of the hollow.

Assistant Superintendent – Pennie reported on the following:

n/a

Parks – Lee reported on the following:

- Trail and Playground Inspections are available
- Work continues on winterizing the pool
- Triosk installed at the Celery Bog Nature Area. In addition, night-lights are being repaired and a lock box was installed at the Nature Center for Police/Fire.
- Trail lights were repaired along the Wabash Heritage Trail in Happy Hollow Park and in Tapawingo Park.

Recreation Report – Chris reported on the following:

n/a

Morton Center – Brenda reported on the following:

- WALLA classes started today and will run through November 8. They have a record enrollment of 238.
- The Purdue Homecoming Parade was staged from Morton's parking lot on Friday evening. The students were well organized and excited about the event.
- The City had a team for "Just Walk for the Health of It" held yesterday the Fairgrounds. The Purdue Track and Field Team took home the Golden Sneakers Award. They had 61 people on their team at the event. There were a total of 133 people that attended the event.

- Morton instructors have been asked to turn in their class proposals by Wednesday for the Winter/Spring session. It will give me a few weeks to work with them before passing the information to Chris for the brochure.

Stewardship Manager – Dan reported on the following:

- We have completed the requirements to obtain a defibrillator for the Lilly Nature Center and it has arrived. I have been working with the Kathryn Weil Center for Education on this project. We currently have five people trained on usage of the equipment and plan to provide training to the volunteers that assist at the Lilly Nature Center.
- We have completed some landscaping projects at various parks and are working to rejuvenate a couple of the Adopt-A-Spots that are in poor shape.
- The Celery Bog Nature Area has been awarded a Certified Wildlife Habitat designation by the National Wildlife Association.

Old Business

ColorBash and Glow in the Night Event

Joe introduced representatives for the ColorBash and Glow in the Night 5K event, Ray Sohm and Nathan Senders. Both men presented background information regarding their groups, along with a request to host the special event in Cumberland Park on November 10. Following much discussion, Pat motioned to approve the event as presented. There was no second to approve the event. The motion did not carry and the request was denied.

New Business

Celery Bog App Proposal

Dan reported that he has met several times with a Purdue class, which has decided to do four projects for the semester that relate to the Celery Bog Nature Area.

1) One of the projects is to design an app for the iPhone or Android for the CBNA. Many times teachers do not feel comfortable coming out to nature because of not being able to answer questions that students might have pertaining to the area. If they use reference books, some of the items in those references may not pertain to the CBNA. We have been very fortunate to have some gentlemen that have taken fantastic photos of the flowers, birds, animals, etc. at the CBNA over the past years. The students are very excited to put these items into an app so that anyone can click on the Celery Bog Nature Area app. If a person is interested in birds, they can click on a picture of a blue jay and it will air the sound of a blue jay. If you are on a trail, you can click on the trail, and it will show you exactly where you are in the CBNA. There will be many interactive tools with the app. It will give you the history of the Celery Bog and will contain information pertaining to only the Celery Bog. These students designing the free app are freshman and are interested in staying with us the next four years, seeing this project through. There will be no cost to us.

2) Another project a group of students is working on is potential educational signs that could go up at the CBNA. Again, it doesn't mean that we are going to use them, but

they will be working on ten different signs that could be placed along the trail or somewhere to help educate the public.

3) Another group is putting together some designs for an outdoor amphitheater that could be placed on the hillside at the CBNA that would seat 150 people or more.

4) The last group of students is working on grants, or potential sources of funds, to help pay for these projects.

Again, we are very excited for these projects, but we are not obligated to use any of them, but if we decide to, we will have all of this information.

Kuchta 2012 Request

Brenda presented a request from Chris Kuchta, an artist that has been renting space at Morton for the past five years. His first request was to ask that he not have a rental increase of 5% this year. His second request is for the 5% annual increase to be lowered to 3% annually for his rental space at Morton. He came to the board two years ago asking that we freeze his rate for that year, which the board agreed to. He did not come to the board last year and he paid his 5% increase. Chris did mention to Brenda that if the rate continues to increase at 5% every year, he would need to look elsewhere for rental space. Discussion followed. It was then decided the item would be tabled until next month to allow Brenda to gather more data for other rental spaces.

Request for Math Night at Cumberland Elementary

Joe presented a request received from Dianne Tennenhouse, the same as last year's request, for 35 Rink Admission passes to be used as rewards for Cumberland Elementary Family Math Night this coming Friday. Aimee motioned to approve the request as presented. John seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

West Lafayette School Board – Karen reported the following:

- The first nine weeks ends tomorrow.

Wabash River

Richard noted at the last meeting they learned Wabash River Enhancement Corp has recently been able to purchase some property. Andy explained the direction that W.R.E.C. is moving in, noting excitement for a long-range thinking project for W.R.E.C. He explained that most property owners along North River Road own the property to the west of River Road, which has their house, and the property between River Road and the river. W.R.E.C. has been able to get some money through North Central Health Services to fund a program to buy the homes, then subdivide the property, then re-sell the home without the piece along the river. So then eventually, and it is a long-range plan, but then eventually they will be able to gain the riverfront property to extend some trails. In the places where there is not enough riverbank width, they could gain easement rights with the new homeowners for the trail system. Joe also noted there have been orders to do a Scenic Byway plan. There are only two designated Scenic Byways, one is the Ohio River Scenic Byway and the other is our River Road Scenic Byway that extends from Interstate 65 to Ross Hills.

Other

Wabash Heritage Trail Signs

If you have any additional input for the signs, please let us know so that we can pass the information along.

Pay Claims

Pat motioned for claims to be paid. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Richard noted that he appreciated everyone's careful consideration for the ColorBash event. He thinks the intent of the event was a good thing, trying to get more people out, but thought the presenters could have done a better job by having everything in place and anticipating more of the questions that came their way. Richard asked the Board to think about, based on the challenges that they saw in regards to the reasons why they did not want to approve the event, if the presenters offered to change this or that, would they reconsider their decision. He said it wasn't something that had to be decided or discussed at this time, but to think about it this week. The Board went on to discuss, saying they would not change their decisions to oppose the event.

Adjourn

Aimee motioned to adjourn the meeting. John seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:48pm.

Presiding Officer

Secretary